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# News Release

## **HPD Reminds Motorists and Pedestrians of Safety**

**Nov. 23, 2011**

The Harrisonburg Police Department would like to educate and remind motorists of the importance of traffic safety, especially around the holidays.

With the holidays just around the corner, police anticipate more traffic and pedestrians in the area.

When driving in Harrisonburg, police encourage motorists to use caution and be vigilant for pedestrians, especially those with limited mobility.

A blind person will be guided by a dog or carrying a cane that is predominantly metallic or white in color and may have a red tip at the end.

According to the Code of Virginia (46.2-933), vehicles must come to a full stop before arriving at an intersection to allow for the pedestrian to cross. Violators could be guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor, which results in a fine of up to \$500.

Tips for motorists and pedestrians:

- Make yourself or your vehicle visible
- Make eye contact to ensure you are seen
- Obey all traffic signs
- Do not drive or walk distracted
- Pay attention to different traffic patterns in lieu of holiday traffic

To ensure all pedestrians are safe; motorists and pedestrians should be mindful of one another and use caution in areas with high foot traffic.

**Note to Media:** Jon Stetson is a blind pedestrian in this community. HPD and RCSO have been working with Mr. Stetson to ensure his travels are safe. He is also willing to speak with a representative of the media.